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CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (previously presented) A method of assigning service priorities to traffic from a plurality of sources using meters, the method comprising:

receiving a packet that is placed into a specific class of service (COS) group pertaining to a specific service being tracked and controlled;

determining a fabric-adjusted meter modifier depending on a payload size of the packet and on technology of a limiting uplink being used; and

adding the fabric-adjusted meter modifier to a meter corresponding to the specific COS group, wherein the meter comprises a counter that tracks traffic associated with said service over a period of time, and wherein said adding updates the meter.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the meter exceeds a black-type limit for the specific COS group; and
if the black-type limit is exceeded, then dropping the packet.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the meter exceeds a red-type limit for the specific COS group; and
if the red-type limit is exceeded, then lowering a priority level of the packet.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining if the COS meter exceeds a limit for the specific COS group and
if the limit is exceeded then perform an action specified for the limit.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein determining the fabric-adjusted meter modifier comprises retrieving a modifier value associated with the payload size from a technology-specific look-up table.

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7-8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) An apparatus for forwarding traffic from a plurality of sources, the apparatus comprising:

a port for receiving a packet that is placed into a specific COS group pertaining to a specific service being tracked and controlled;

calculation circuitry configured to determine a fabric-adjusted meter modifier depending on a payload size of the packet and on a technology of an uplink being used;

update circuitry configured to add the fabric-adjusted meter modifier to a meter corresponding to the specific COS group, wherein said meter comprises a counter that tracks traffic associated with said service over a period of time.

10. (cancelled)

11. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

comparison circuitry configured to determine if the meter exceeds a black-type limit for the specific COS group; and

non-forwarding circuitry for dropping the packet if the black-type limit is exceeded.

12. (original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

comparison circuitry configured to determine if the meter exceeds a red-type limit for the specific COS group; and

prioritization circuitry for lowering a priority level of the packet if the red-type limit is exceeded.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the calculation circuitry comprises a technology-specific look-up table.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the calculation circuitry comprises a plurality of comparators and an adder to sum outputs of the comparators.

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15. (previously presented) A system for routing traffic from a plurality of sources using class of service (COS) meters, the system comprising:

means for receiving a packet that is placed into a specific COS group pertaining to a specific service being tracked and controlled;

means for determining a fabric-adjusted meter modifier depending on a payload size of the packet and on a technology of an uplink being used;

means for adding the fabric-adjusted meter modifier to a COS meter corresponding to the specific COS group, wherein said meter comprises a counter that tracks traffic associated with said service over a period of time, and wherein said adding updates said meter.

16. (currently amended) A method of implementing class of service (COS) functionality in a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

defining a user-configurable function in said telecommunications system by way of a user interface; and

assigning the user-configurable function to be a meter modifier function associated with a class of service group in the system, wherein the meter modifier function depends on a payload size of a packet and is used to adjust for [[a]] technology of a fabric uplink technology in said telecommunications system, and

adding the meter modifier function to a group meter implemented by a router in said telecommunications system, wherein said adding updates the group meter.

17. (cancelled)

18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the user-configurable function depends on a current value of the meter.

19. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the user-configurable function depends on a last destination of a packet forwarded by the system.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method of implementing class of service (COS)

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functionality in a telecommunications system, the method comprising:

defining multiple user-configurable meter modifier functions in said telecommunications system by way of a user interface, said meter modifier functions to be added to meters implemented by at least one router in said telecommunications system to update said meters; and

assigning each service class of a set of service classes to one of the user-configurable meter modifier functions, wherein the meter modifier functions are dependent upon packet payload size and ~~which a type of fabric uplink technology~~ [[is]] used in an uplink of said telecommunications system.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the fabric-adjusted meter modifier is different for hardware-based and software-based routing.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the fabric-adjusted meter modifier is different for tagged and untagged hardware-based routing.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the fabric-adjusted meter modifier is different for hardware-based routing to an Ethernet link and hardware-based routing to a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) link.

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 1, wherein determining the fabric-adjusted meter modifier comprises summing outputs from a plurality of comparators with the payload size if specified by a user-configurable flag.

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REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are offered at the express request of the Examiner to clarify the claim language. Applicant does not believe that these amendments change or narrow the scope of the claims in any degree. Following entry of the amendment, as indicated by the requesting Examiner, the application should be in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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